

**Vegetation Classification and Mapping Assistance  
Upper Columbia Basin Network Parks 2006 - 2007**

**Task Agreement Project Proposal to  
The United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service, Upper Columbia Basin Network**

**Prepared by  
Idaho Conservation Data Center  
Department of Fish and Game**

**June 29, 2006**

**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of this proposed Task Agreement to Cooperative Agreement # H9373060001 between the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), Upper Columbia Basin Network (UCBN) and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), an agency of the State of Idaho and its subdivision, Idaho Conservation Data Center (IDCDC), is to contribute funding and mutual talents towards generation of vegetation classifications, field keys, descriptions, and associated documentation for City of Rocks National Reserve (CIRO), Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve (CRMO), Minidoka Internment National Monument (MIIN), and Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (HAFO). The original agreement was entered into to facilitate interaction between the NPS and IDCDC and to recognize that their agencies share common goals and interests in planning and management of natural resources. The terms and conditions as stated in the original Cooperative Agreement will apply to this proposed Task Agreement.

IDCDC will work as a team with Cogan Technology Inc. (CTI) and NatureServe (NS) to collaborate in the classification of plant communities and create ecologically meaningful mapping units for Upper Columbia Basin parks. All tasks will be conducted in close cooperation with NPS, NS, and CTI and will include collection of ecological data; assistance in training field crews; development of vegetation classifications, descriptions, and field keys; assistance in vegetation mapping interpretation; and preparation of a final report for the project.

**Assumptions:**

UCBN will work closely with the IDCDC to secure existing field data.

In order to develop this proposal and accompanying budget, we developed a series of assumptions about the amount and timing of work on each task. Since the field and classification work for these Parks will occur over several field seasons, we assumed there would be at least two iterations of alliance-level classification work, as well as at least two versions of field key(s). We estimate that a total of 50 alliances will occur in the 4 Park units.

**STATEMENT OF WORK**

IDCDC agrees to complete the following tasks:

**Task 1. Prepare draft vegetation classification(s).** IDCDC will develop a preliminary vegetation classification following the 2006 field season. IDCDC will collaborate with NS in the classification of vegetation to assure consistency with existing alliances in the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) and the identification of new vegetation alliances. IDCDC staff time budgeted for this task is 10.5 weeks including time for a staff ecologist, wetland ecologist, and data management staff. This task will be

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completed in Spring 2007 and produce a report summarizing analytic methods and results.

Deliverable: Report summarizing analytical methods and results

Due Date: March 30, 2007

Budget:

Salary and benefits	\$ 13,074
staff ecologist (6 weeks)	
wetland ecologist (1.5 weeks)	
research biologist (3 weeks)	
Operating costs	242
Travel	353
Sub-total	\$ 13,669
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Administrative overhead	2,570
Total	\$ 16,239

**Task 2. Prepare field key(s).** IDCDC will develop vegetation keys that will enable park resource managers, biologists, and others to determine a vegetation alliance in the field through a structured decision-making process. IDCDC will collaborate with NS in the development and review of the field key(s). IDCDC time budgeted for this task is 3.5 weeks. This task will be completed by Spring 2007 and will be prepared as a stand-alone appendix to the report prepared under task 1.

Deliverable: Dichotomous key included as appendix to report for task 1

Due Date: April 27, 2007

Budget:

Salary and benefits	\$ 4,358
staff ecologist (2 weeks)	
wetland ecologist (0.5 weeks)	
research biologist (1 week)	
Operating costs	81
Travel	118
Sub-total	\$ 4,556
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Administrative overhead	857
Total	\$ 5,413

#### **TERM OF AGREEMENT**

This proposed Task Agreement shall continue through September 2007.

#### **AWARD AND PAYMENT**

IDCDC worksheet and budget for this project is shown as follows:

	Task 1	Task 2	Total
Salary and benefits	\$ 13,074	\$ 4,358	\$ 17,432
Operating costs	242	81	323
Travel	353	118	471
Sub-total	\$ 13,669	\$ 4,556	\$ 18,226
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Administrative overhead	2,570	857	3,426
Total	\$ 16,239	\$ 5,413	\$ 21,652